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forward a dissentient opinion, and I grant that RANNO's remark concerning the risk of basing our views of O. H. G. syntax too exclusively upon OTFRID is quite in place; for OTFRID was a poet, and was doubtless occasionally conscious of doing more or less violence to his native tongue. Still I cannot help regarding it as an open question whether the manifold constraints of a Latin original might not here and there carry an O. H. G. translator even further from the normal syntax of his people than a facile versifier would be carried by the exigencies of assonance and poetic diction.

But apart from this question it is certainly desirable to know accurately how the different O. H. G. translators of the eighth and ninth centuries compare with one another in fidelity to their originals and in apparent command of the idiomatic resources of German. Hence the usefulness of DR. RANNO's study. Some writers, for example GERING and DENECKE, have held that the O. H. G. 'Ammonius' (or Tatian) is a better criterion for syntactical purposes than the 'Isidore,' in which the Latin original seems, at first view, to be treated with excessive and even careless freedom. RANNO has accordingly gone to work to test the credentials of the translator of ISIDORE by making a minute comparison of his work with the Latin original. The study is divided into three parts, the first dealing with the rendering of independent, the second with that of dependent sentences. Here the object of the inquiry is to ascertain how far the translator has deviated from the syntactical form of his original and to explain his deviations if possible. The results obtained are presented in statistical form and indicate, in a general way, a preference on the part of the German for hypotactic constructions. The third part is devoted to those Latin constructions that presented peculiar difficulties, the accusative with the infinitive, the ablative absolute, the gerund, etc. Interesting among the matters here touched is the moot question of the character of the German dative absolute. This is employed once as a translation of the Latin *moriens*; *utique quia moriens caro ejus non vidit corruptionem* is rendered *so chinuissō ist dhazs imu arsterbandemu siin fleisc ni chisah enigan unnuuillun*. Three times it occurs as a trans-

lation of the ablative absolute: *dicente eodem filio* appears as *selbemu gotes sune quhedhen-demu*; and *omnibus vitiorum generibus expul-sis vel angelorum malorum hostibus effugatis* as *allem sundono chunnum ardrībendēm ioh allem herum ubilero angilo arflaugidam*. But now, as there are fifteen ablatives absolute in the text reported on by RANNO, it looks as if the O. H. G. dative absolute were felt by the translator to be an un-German construction which he would allow himself to use only under constraint. This view is confirmed when we find so simple and natural a phrase as *patre suo vivente* rendered by *bi sinemu fatere lebendemu* where the *bi* would hardly have crept in if the simple dative absolute had been felt as perfectly German.

The general conclusion reached by RANNO is that the O. H. G. translator of ISIDORE worked conscientiously and intelligently; that as a rule he endeavored to reproduce the syntactical forms of his original by corresponding German forms wherever this was possible; that, however, he often deviated from the Latin construction or type of sentence, and occasionally added a word or a clause of his own; his object being in such cases either to make the meaning clearer or to adapt the thought more perfectly to the idiomatic proprieties of his own tongue.

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*Études lexicographiques sur l'ancienne langue française* à propos du dictionnaire de M. GODEFROY par le DR. A. MILLET, Paris. 1888. pp. 69

This is a systematic and exhaustive review of GODEFROY's dictionary. All the faults of omission and commission of this extremely unwieldy and defective work are exposed with painstaking precision. GODEFROY has encumbered his dictionary of Old French with a great many Middle French words coined by RABELAIS and his contemporaries; he has often heaped up examples of the same meaning of the same word, and, on the other hand, utterly failed to give examples for other words; he intends to leave out all Old French words which still exist with the same meaning in the modern language—a fatal mistake—and he repeatedly

fails to carry out his plan, omitting Old French words which have ceased to be used, and inserting words which still preserve their Old French meaning; he mistakes the accusative of a noun for a new word and awards it a distinct article; the same thing occurs with mere dialectic variations of the same word; his definitions are often vague in the extreme, sometimes they are positively contradictory and absurd; families of words are not arranged together under one head; the successive forms of a word are not arranged in chronological order, the last form given being often the earliest; no distinction is made between the dialect of the Ile de France, the parent of modern French, and the other dialects.

Most of these faults had been pointed out before; still it is interesting to have them systematically laid before us. We feel at every page what a pity it is that the tremendous labor which has been spent on GODEFROY's dictionary should not have resulted in a more permanent benefit to linguistic science; it is a valuable collection of words and quotations which we all have to consult at present, but it will be finally classed rather as a thesaurus of material for the lexicographer, than as a useful tool for the student.

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*Der Aufenthalt der Neuphilologen und das Studium moderner Sprachen im Auslande* von PROF. DR. SCHMEDING, Oberlehrer am Realgymnasium zu Duisburg. Zweite völlig umgearbeitete Auflage. Berlin: Oppenheim. 1889. 8vo, pp. 97.

To many readers of the MOD. LANG. NOTES the author of this little volume is well known through his 'Drei Monate in Rom' (Duisburg, 1868), and more especially through his valuable contribution to modern-language study in Germany, 'Die klassische Bildung in der Gegenwart' (Berlin 1885). In the former book, the author gave an instructive account of his sojourn in Italy, in the latter a valiant defense of the claims of modern languages as the successors of Latin and Greek in modern education. One extract will give those not acquainted with the latter work an idea of its aim and scope ('Die Klassische Bildung in der Gegenwart,' p. 8):

Nicht darum handelt es sich, ob noch in Zukunft Latein und Griechisch gelernt werden soll—(gewiss soll es gelernt werden, auch Arabisch und Persisch soll gelernt werden)—sondern darum, ob es wohlgethan sei es in dem Masse und in der Ausdehnung zu lernen und es mit solchen Privilegien auszustatten, wie es jetzt geschieht. Es handelt sich also mit andern Worten darum, dasjenige, was unter dem Namen "*Klassische Bildung*" jetzt angeeignet wird, in seinem eigentlichen Wesen und Wirken zu erkennen, entkleidet von alle dem fremdartigen Aufputz, womit die Tradition sie umgeben und dann zu unteruchen, ob es wohlgethan sei, ihm jetzt im Organismus des Schul- und Staatslebens noch den Platz zu lassen, den man ihm bisher erteilte.

In the book under consideration ('Der Aufenthalt der Neuphilologen im Auslande') we have the results of the author's early experience in other lands (first published twenty years ago in the programme of the *Bürger-schule* in Oldenburg), rewritten in the light of the progress made in methods of modern language study during the last twenty years. Since the appearance of that programme gigantic strides have been taken, great educational revolutions brought about, firm and indisputable ground gained; the *Realschule Erster Ordnung* has risen to the rank of *Realgymnasium*, the university has set the seal of recognition upon the *Neuphilologe*, and the State has made a thorough knowledge of one or more modern languages a requirement in the *Staatsexamen*; philological associations for the nurture of the new science have been formed in Germany, the United States and Canada. It is with reference to these features of the new education that the author reviews his early experience, offering at the same time valuable suggestions as to the best application of time and money in acquiring languages abroad. In the first part of his work he discusses the difficulties which the student of modern languages encounters on entering a foreign country; as, for example, *insufficient preparation in colloquial idioms, lack of affiliations, too low estimate of the cost, the difficulty of adapting one's views to foreign modes of thinking* ("Und hier liegt nun für unsern Neuphilologen eine Hauptschwierigkeit in der Menschennatur im allgemeinen und in seiner Eigenschaft als Deutscher," S. 32). A bit of sound admonition is to be found in